

Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To:

Members

Senate Committee on Finance

From:

Senator Brian Burke

Date:

October 9, 2001

Re:

Enclosed Mail Ballot

Enclosed please find a mail ballot regarding Senate Bill 128. Please make your recommendation on the attached motion and return your completed ballot to my office by 4 p.m., tomorrow, October 10, 2001.

Fee free to contact me if you have any questions.

YES	NO
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Signature	



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NO _____

Signature

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YES ______ NO _____

Signature,

YES	NO
Signature Robert W. W.	



October 10, 2001

Senator Brian Burke State Capital, 317 East Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Burke:

I am concerned with your increased willingness to circumvent the Joint Finance Committee process by directing the Senate Finance Committee to approve spending proposals with a paper ballot.

If it is true, as I have often heard you say, "the Joint Finance Committee is the last bastion of compromise," than you have let down your guard and threatened the integrity of the committee.

Time after time the Joint Finance Committee has answered the statutory requirement to approve all spending requests with a bi-partisan solution. It has been a signal to the houses that the bill is ready for floor action.

Your recent decision to forego such review signals a breakdown in the process and will only serve to slow the very negotiations you wish to expedite.

At a time when our economy is slowing and the fight for State resources is great, you are setting an extremely reckless and unwise precedent. I would encourage you to rethink this strategy and converse with those who have put you in this predicament before making this procedure the norm.

After all is said and done in the Senate, I want to assure you Senate Bill 128 and others like it will return to the Joint Finance Committee for proper consideration.

Sincerely.

State Representative

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